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IAS/MD 48/70
12 February 1970
Copy # 6

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Office of Strategic Research

SUBJECT: Chinese Trenching Activity in the Damansky
(Chen-pao) Island Area

REFERENCE: (a) CIB 10 February 1970 [redacted]
(b) NPIC Cable 7961 of 9 February 1970

1. Attached for your information is a study of the chronology of trenching activity on Damansky (Chen-pao) Island, as seen in satellite photography, together with an illustrative briefing board. The study shows that most of the main defensive trench lines now present on the island and the adjacent shore line on the Chinese side of the Ussuri River were also present in early [redacted]

2. Because these findings differ considerably from the referenced CIB article, which indicates that most of the trenching is new since early [redacted] I thought you should be informed via direct memo. Your analysts were informed of our views in this matter prior to publication of the CIB, but no detailed study had been completed by us at that time.

3. These findings also differ from those of the referenced NPIC cable, and we are getting together with NPIC today to discuss the matter.

4. Additional information on this subject may be obtained from the responsible IAS officer, [redacted] Acting Chief, Ground Forces Branch, Military Division on extension [redacted]

[redacted]
Director
Imagery Analysis Service

Attachment:

As stated

Enclosures:

1 - Annotated photographic enlargement (addressee only)

Distribution:

- Cy. #1 & 2 - Addressee
3 - IRS/Recce/R
4 - MD/IAS
5 - O/Dir/IAS
6 - ExO/Dir/NPIC
7 - IEG/NPIC
8 - OSR/RAD [redacted]

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GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic
downgrading and
declassification

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TOP SECRET

ATTACHMENT TO:

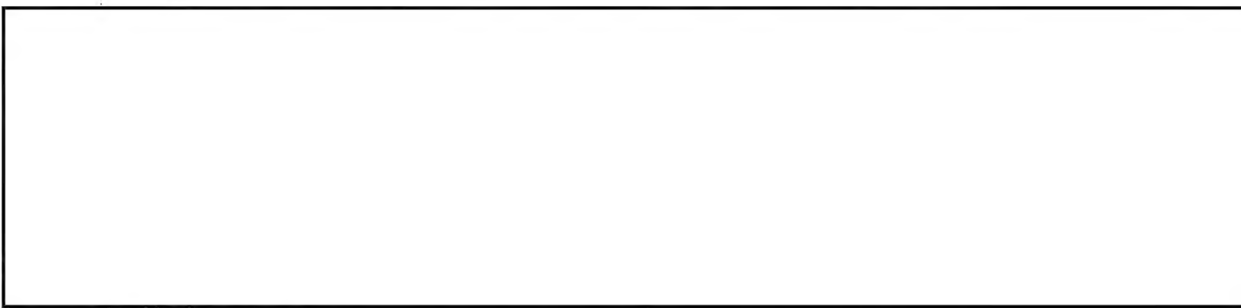
Chinese Trenching Activity In the Damansky (Chen-pao)
Island Area

An analysis of Damansky (Chen-pao) Island, a site of Soviet and Chinese confrontations along the Sino-Soviet border, was performed to determine the amount of trenching activity that has occurred since [redacted]. The study shows that most of the main defensive trench lines now present on the island and the adjacent shore line on the Chinese side of the Ussuri River were also present in early [redacted].

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Individual firing bays are not shown on the accompanying graphic. Most such bays were present in [redacted] but a small number are new on the [redacted] imagery.

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It appears that some of the trenches present in [redacted] may have been improved or modified. This interpretation is qualified because foliage present on the [redacted] imagery could obscure some of the defenses, and the light snow cover and absence of foliage on the [redacted] imagery could highlight the defenses.

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It should be noted that the terrain of the entire area is flat and evidently subject to periodic flooding. This would probably require constant maintenance of defensive positions along this portion of the river.

The additional trenching, firing bays, and the modification of existing trenches does indicate that the Chinese have been gradually improving their defenses since [redacted].

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